

## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** Contact: Deyna Hardison Date: March 21, 2005 Phone: 919/733-5612

## GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 150 JOBS AND \$10 MILLION INVESTMENT One N.C. Fund Grant Helps Volvo Trucks North America Expand in Greensboro

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the Volvo Group, a manufacturer of heavy-duty highway trucks, will expand its corporate headquarters in Greensboro, adding 150 jobs during the next three years and investing \$10 million into the area. This announcement is made possible in part by a \$400,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"Volvo's continued success proves that our economic development investments are benefiting both new and existing industries in North Carolina," Easley said. "Our strong emphasis on education and workforce development ensures that companies such as Volvo can continue to grow here and that our state remains highly competitive in the new global economy."

The 150 new jobs will pay an average salary of \$60,000 per year plus benefits. The new jobs will bring the workforce at the Greensboro corporate campus to more than 1,600.

In January 2001, the Volvo Group acquired Mack Trucks Inc., which has been based in Allentown, Pa. The Guilford County expansion is the result of consolidation in Greensboro of certain administrative support functions such as communications, human resources and finance for the Volvo Group's North American truck operations, and the creation of the new Volvo Business Services unit, which serves Volvo Group companies across North America.

"All of us at Volvo greatly appreciate the support and recognition this grant represents," said Peter Karlsten, president and chief executive officer of Volvo Trucks North America Inc. "The state of North Carolina, as well as Guilford County and the city of Greensboro, have been great partners with Volvo as we continue to grow and invest in our local operations."

The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, more than 13,000 jobs and more \$1.8 billion in investments have been created since 2001.

Other contributors that made this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Department of Transportation, Guilford County and the city of Greensboro.

For more information about possible job opportunities with the Volvo Group, visit www.volvotrucks.us.com.

###